

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 271

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Congratulating Fort Detrick, Maryland, on 60
years of service to the Nation.

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Whereas April 10, 2003, was the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Army installation in Frederick, Maryland, named Fort Detrick;

Whereas Fort Detrick is designated as an Army Medical Installation and is home to the United States Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC), one of two campuses of the National Cancer Institute (NCI-

Frederick), and 36 other organizations of the Department of Defense and other Federal departments;

Whereas the primary missions of the organizations at Fort Detrick include biomedical research and development, medical materiel management, and global telecommunications;

Whereas throughout that installation's 60-year history, the personnel and organizations assigned to that installation have contributed scientific breakthroughs and medical solutions for the Armed Forces and the Nation;

Whereas Fort Detrick is a focal point for the Nation's biomedical scientific leadership and has contributed extensively to protecting and improving public health in the United States;

Whereas Fort Detrick has been home to preeminent researchers in bacteriology, microbiology, clinical and preventative medicine, biochemistry, neurology, botany, virology, and genomics;

Whereas the research program at Fort Detrick was a pioneer in the laboratory facility designs, equipment, and procedures that are used for infectious disease research in laboratories worldwide;

Whereas researchers at Fort Detrick have improved public health throughout the world through the creation of botulinum antibodies, which have been used to treat both infant and adult victims of botulism;

Whereas the Venezuelan equine encephalitis vaccines, which were created at Fort Detrick, have been used to control human and animal outbreaks of Venezuelan equine encephalitis, and the Rift Valley Fever vaccines, which were also created at Fort Detrick, have been used to protect

people in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and other countries who are at high risk of Rift Valley Fever;

Whereas, on January 27, 1969, the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army established the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the “Institute”), which is located at Fort Detrick and is the Department of Defense’s lead laboratory for medical aspects of biological warfare defense;

Whereas when outbreaks of hantaviral disease began in the southwestern United States in 1993, the Institute was called upon by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and by various State health departments for consultations;

Whereas when the Ebola virus was first carried to the shores of the United States in late 1989 by a primate colony found in Reston, Virginia, it was researchers at the Institute who diagnosed and contained the outbreak;

Whereas the Institute also played a key role in the identification of and response to the initial outbreak of West Nile virus in New York;

Whereas the Institute continues its life-saving work by collaborating with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health on the development of diagnostics and the evaluation of antiviral drugs for Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome;

Whereas the Institute created a vaccine against hemorrhagic fever in the 1980s, which has possibly saved thousands of lives in Argentina, including the lives of agricultural workers at risk for exposure to this hemorrhagic fever virus;

Whereas the Institute was the only Federal laboratory to maintain a continuous diagnostic reference capability on a 24-hour per day basis after the attacks of September 11, 2001, and provided expertise in medical diagnostics and decontamination that was key to ensuring that congressional office buildings were safe to reoccupy after the anthrax mail attacks in the fall of 2001;

Whereas leading vaccine candidates for anthrax, plague, tularemia, and botulinum neurotoxins were all originally developed at the Institute;

Whereas the basic research program at the Institute is responsible for some of the most promising medical countermeasures against the leading biological threats that are on the “A” List of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

Whereas the Institute has established a partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health to collaborate and accelerate biodefense research that will protect all Americans against the threat of biological and chemical attacks by terrorists;

Whereas in 1974, the United States Army Medical Materiel Agency was relocated to Fort Detrick and the Navy, Air Force, and Army all now conduct medical logistics planning and management at Fort Detrick in support of global military operations;

Whereas the Foreign Disease-Weed Science Research Unit of the Agricultural Research Service of the Department of Agriculture has conducted high-priority research in the Plant Pathogen Containment Facility at Fort Detrick for over 30 years, providing the agricultural community with

basic epidemiological information and rapid diagnostic assays for exotic threatening and emerging crop diseases, such as Karnal bunt of wheat, soybean rust, potato late blight, and plum pox virus;

Whereas Company B, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, United States Marine Corps Reserve, which has been assigned to Fort Detrick since October 1987, had a mission of reconnaissance and security in support of a Marine Air/Ground Task Force and received the Meritorious Unit Citation for its service during Operation Desert Storm;

Whereas the Army's 1108th Signal Brigade at Fort Detrick provides important strategic communication support to the White House and the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

Whereas the National Cancer Institute-Frederick at Fort Detrick, one of two campuses of the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, is an internationally recognized center for scientific excellence in the prevention, detection, and treatment of cancer and AIDS: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) congratulates Fort Detrick, Maryland, on
4 60 years of service to the Nation; and

5 (2) commends the military and civilian per-
6 sonnel of the Army, other elements of the Depart-
7 ment of Defense, and other Federal departments
8 and agencies who have worked diligently at Fort
9 Detrick since its founding—

- 1 (A) to defend the United States against bi-
- 2 ological and chemical attack; and
- 3 (B) to develop vaccines for all types of ill-
- 4 nesses.

Passed the House of Representatives October 1,
2003.

Attest:

Clerk.